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Britain was read signed by the Bishop of Durham, Lord Playfair, Dean Farrar, Sir John Lubbock, Lady Henry Somerset, Mrs. Fawcett, Rev. Hugh Price Hughes, Hon. W. R. Cremer, Dr. Clifford and Dr. Parker. The cablegram read:

"Hearty greetings to our American kinsmen who are celebrating Washington's Birthday. We join with you in doing honor to your national hero by advocating fraternal union through a permanent Court of Arbitration for the peaceful and honorable adjustment of all differences arising in the English-speaking family."

This cablegram was received with the heartiest applause of the great audience and a response, submitted by Alfred H. Love, was ordered cabled back. A resolution was offered by Bishop Potter and unanimously approved authorizing Mr. Herbert Welsh, who is about to sail for Europe, to represent the Convention in any conferences on the subject that might occur in Great Britain while he is there.

The speakers of the evening were Bishop Potter, Rev. W. Hudson Shaw, Professor Felix Adler, President Raymond of Union College, and Hon. Robert Treat Paine of Boston. Bishop Potter dwelt chiefly on the difficulties in the way of arbitration, with which however he expressed his entire sympathy. Rev. W. Hudson Shaw delighted as well as instructed the audience by the manner in which he portrayed the attachment of the masses of the English people to the people of the United States. His criticism of the character and policy of the aristocracy as led by Lord Salisbury was as refreshingly severe as his restrictions on our school books of history were discriminating and just. Professor Felix Adler's address was excellent, as was that of President Raymond. Hon. Robert Treat Paine closed his strong speech, the last of the evening, with the presentation of a simple scheme for the establishment of a permanent system of arbitration between the United States and Great Britain, in accordance with which the two nations should bind themselves by a treaty providing that, in case of differences not adjustable by diplomacy, the Supreme Court of each nation shall appoint two of its own members as arbitrators and these four shall have the power to name three others.

So ended a day sure to be memorable in the annals of the arbitration movement, the fruits of which we may hope soon to see.

#### EDITORIAL NOTES.

The convention for the appointment of a commission to determine the amount of damages to be paid to Canadian sealers has been signed by Secretary Olney and Sir Julian Pauncefote. It is now before the Senate for ratification. Senator Morgan proposes to amend the agreement by including the claims of American citizens as well as those of British subjects. We doubt if, under the award of the Paris Tribunal, any such counter-claims as those put forward by Senator Morgan can now be set up. The treaty which arranged for the Paris Tribunal

provided, article 8, that each nation might submit to the tribunal any facts bearing upon the question of liability for damages. The United States submitted no such facts; Great Britain did. It would seem, therefore, that the United States has now no right to set up any claim for damages, and we hope that Senator Morgan will not be allowed to impede in this way the completion of a peaceful and conciliatory settlement of the subject.

The action of the New York Assembly alluded to in the following paragraph from the *Evening Post* of February 25th is an encouraging evidence of the rapid weakening of the jingo forces:

A very striking and encouraging evidence of a healthy change in public sentiment in this State toward war is to be seen in the action of the Assembly at Albany last evening. A resolution was pending before it urging Congress to increase the navy, construct elaborate coast defenses, form a closer alliance with other republics on this continent, and "acquire Cuba, preferably by purchase." When this came up for consideration Mr. Kempner offered as a substitute a series of resolutions saying that the true grandeur of nations lay in the arts of civilization rather than in the wasteful, bitter violence of war, declaring that the Legislature earnestly desires Congress and the President to make permanent provisions for some wise method of international arbitration, and requesting the Governor to forward a copy of the resolutions to the Governors of other States in the Union asking them to co-operate in the movement for a national conference upon the subject at Washington. This substitute was adopted with only one dissenting vote, that of the author of the first resolution. Members of both parties thus went upon the record against jingoism, and their action gives unmistakable evidence that the "war party" in this State is a very insignificant minority.

Twenty-seven prominent citizens of Chicago, among whom we find the names of Mayor Swift, Marshal Field, Geo. M. Pullman, Lyman J. Gage, Potter Palmer, C. B. Farwell, Cyrus H. McCormick, Franklin MacVeagh, and of others equally eminent, signed an address to "the Press and People" on February 5th, containing the following suggestion:

"We suggest and propose that the people of all cities and towns of the Union at their meetings to celebrate the birth of Washington, or at special meetings called for the purpose on the Sunday afternoon next following, or in the meetings of their societies, clubs, churches, social, religious or commercial organizations nearest in time to Washington's birthday, shall embody their views, each assemblage in its own way, on the following questions:

"1. Do we wish the Governments of the United States and Great Britain, by formal treaty, to establish arbitration as the method of concluding all differences which may fail of settlement by diplomacy between the two Powers?

"2. What is your opinion of war as a mode of deciding controversies between the United States and Great Britain?"

The suggestion of this address was carried out in many places on the 22d of February.

The Universal Peace Union which did such excellent service in the late street-railway strike in Philadelphia has sent the following resolution of thanks to the Union Traction Company:

Resolved, That the thanks of the Universal Peace Union are due, and they are hereby presented, to the President and Directors of the Union Traction Company and their employes for accepting the peace principles of a conference with and the recommendations of the commission composed of the friends of peace from the citizens of Philadelphia.

Resolved, That we cordially commend the action of the Commission representing the Citizens' Committee appointed by the various philanthropic associations, which met at the call of our committee and in this historic building adjudicated the difficulties existing between the Traction Company and its employes, and whose recommendations were an endorsement of the principles formulated by the Universal Peace Union, and which have proven efficacious and satisfactory wherever and whenever tested.

Resolved, That the appointment of a mediatorial commission in all cases where arbitration is not attainable having in this, as in other cases, proved eminently satisfactory in its results, the method is hereby recommended in all similar cases, and may be adopted with equal success in national and international difficulties.

Resolved, That each member of the Peace Commission be and is hereby elected an honorary member of the Universal Peace Union, and is invited to attend meetings of the Union whenever convenient.

In an otherwise extremely interesting and timely article on "The Venezuela Question," by Andrew Carnegie, in the February number of the *North American Review*, we find this astounding paragraph:

"The International Arbitration Society, of which Sir John Lubbock is Chairman, is, as we learn by cable, to declare for arbitration at its coming meeting. This will not be without influence, but it would have been more powerful had that organization not affiliated with the (London) Peace Society and received its delegates as allies, thus confounding arbitration with peace-at-any-price, which compelled me to resign the vice-presidency with which I had been honored, holding, as I did, that peaceful arbitration is one of the few causes for which it is not only justifiable, but a duty to fight. Any nation which refuses arbitration in a boundary dispute and thus resorts to war rather than forego its claim to sit as judge in its own cause, should be made to realize the truth of Christ's words: 'They that take up the sword shall perish by the sword.' We should fight to prove the truth of that decree, as the only sure means of finally reaching the longed-for reign of peace. If ever the industrial, peace-loving Republic has to draw the sword, may it be in vindication of peaceful arbitration, in international disputes, the Christian substitute for barbarous war."

Mr. Carnegie would have us, under certain contingencies, be guilty of the monstrous contradiction of attempting to establish "the Christian substitute for barbarous war," by "barbarous war" itself! It does not take a "peace-at-any-price" man to see that a war in behalf of *peaceful arbitration*, instead of promoting arbitration, would only create so many more obstacles of hatred

and jealousy which would have to be slowly gotten out of the way before the two nations would again resort to this peaceful method of settling their disputes. Mr. Carnegie does not tell us what would happen if the nation refusing arbitration got the better of it in the war, as is conceivable. If "we should fight to prove the truth of" Christ's decree (?) that "they that take (up) the sword shall perish (by) with the sword," would not some one have to draw the blade against us in order to make us "perish with the sword" in accordance with Christ's words: "All they that take the sword, shall perish with the sword"? We commend these perplexities to Mr. Carnegie's thoughtful attention, while thanking him cordially for his valuable contribution towards bringing about a peaceful settlement of our difficulty with Great Britain.

It is announced that the State Department is now in correspondence with the British Foreign Office in regard to the appointment of a joint commission to investigate the condition of the fur-seal industry in Behring Sea, and report on the further regulations needed for the preservation of the seals. Russia and Japan may be invited to become parties to the investigation, as it is thought that their coöperation can be easily secured.

Miss Clara Barton has reached Constantinople. More than that, she has obtained the permission of the Sultan to carry relief into Armenia. A cable despatch from Minister Terrell was received at the State Department on February 18, announcing that he had succeeded in obtaining the permission of the Porte to enter the stricken country and minister to the wants of the sufferers. Her headquarters will be at Para, the European quarter of Constantinople. Her attendants went at once to the interior of Armenia. Money and supplies will now go quickly to her from this country, and we doubt not in abundance. Brave, victorious woman! She is worth more to humanity than all the sulking warships of the great powers. Her entrance into Armenia means much more than the mere temporary distribution of relief to the smitten, bleeding people, as time will prove.

The bill passed by Congress making prize-fighting in the District of Columbia and in the Territories a felony was signed by the President on the 7th of February. This excellent bit of legislation got about six lines of notice in the daily papers and no flaming headlines. Many people will not find it out for years. The prize-fighters, however, will all hear of it immediately and will not feel disposed to try their gloves on Uncle Sam.

The great missionary work of the United States and Great Britain, stated so admirably in the following note from the *Presbyterian Banner*, has nearly all been inaugurated and developed since the last war between the two countries:

*The nations shall learn war no more.*

## THE ADVOCATE OF PEACE.

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The Carter bill introduced into the United States Senate on December 19, 1895, "to establish a bureau of military education and to promote the adoption of uniform military drill in the public schools of the several States and Territories," which is now before the Senate Committee on Military Affairs, ought to be so condemned by the public sentiment of the country as to leave it not the least chance of being adopted. Its purposes are contrary to all the highest and best interests of the country, physical, intellectual and moral.

### A PLEA FOR PEACE.

BY REV. LYMAN ABBOTT, D.D.

From a sermon preached in Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, December, 22, 1895.

Last Tuesday morning this Nation was at peace with itself and with all the world, and was gradually recovering from a shock of commercial disaster which had for a time paralysed our industries and impaired our financial prosperity. Wednesday morning the whole Nation was aflame, from ocean to ocean, with passionate fire — apprehension, wrath, exultation; and the cause of the difference between Tuesday morning and Wednesday morning was a message of the President of the United States. \* \* \*

What is the issue which has arisen which has inflamed the passions of this people, which has already weakened the ties that bind us to the mother country, which has already imperiled prosperity and impoverished some?

In 1845, fifty years ago, the Republic of Venezuela had its independence acknowledged by Spain, of which it was formerly a dependency, and with which it had been in conflict for a considerable number of years preceding. This Venezuela is one of the Spanish-American Republics, so-called. It has a constitution on paper something like ours. But during the fifty years of its existence it has been, the major part of the time, either in revolution or under a military dictator. It is, in its complexion and character, a republic only in name.

Its established religion is that of the Roman Catholic church. But not of the Roman Catholic church as we see it in America; not of the Roman Catholic church of Archbishop Ireland and Cardinal Gibbons; not even of the Roman Catholic church of Archbishop Corrigan; not the Roman Catholic church even of Ireland or of France; nor yet of Spain. It is a church made up partly of old-time barbarism, and partly of an imperfect Christianity; absolutely reactionary.

This is Venezuela.

Bordering it is an English colony, which has been an English colony since 1814. It has the attributes and qualities of most English colonies — at least, a good degree of independence and business enterprise. There is a longtime dispute as to the boundary between these two countries. Venezuela and Colombia, on one side, are in dispute as to their boundaries. Venezuela and British Guiana are in dispute, on the other side, as to their boundaries.

The land where this disputed boundary line lies is little inhabited; indeed, but little known. I am told, on what I think to be very good commercial authority, that the people of the United States have already lost in the commercial distress which has followed the mere threat of war — the mere shadow of a shadow — for it is nothing more than that as yet — the people of the United States have already lost in depreciation of properties more than twice as much as would suffice to buy the whole of the disputed territory and give it to either party as a Christmas present. (Laughter.)

This disputed boundary line has long been in discussion. We have proposed to England to arbitrate the entire question. England ought to arbitrate the entire question. She does wrong in refusing. She consents to arbitrate up to a certain point; beyond that she refuses to arbitrate. And then what do we propose? \* \* \* \*

This government proposes to say to the governments of Europe, "Hereafter we will assume the function of a supreme international court as regards all contests in South America. We will be judge, jury and sheriff. You shall do what we say is right. If you do not do what we say is right, we will make you do it." It is a pretty large contract even for a pretty large country. But that is no matter. The question is, is it right? That is the only question I have to do with to-night. I do not discuss the question whether we can; I only discuss the question whether we ought to.

There are four grounds on which it is claimed we ought to assume this governmental jurisdiction over South America: first, our commercial interest; secondly, our duty to an oppressed sister republic; thirdly, our traditions as expressed in the Monroe doctrine; and fourthly,